

SAFETY SECTION

LOOK BOTH WAYS



By Mariano Pascual *

"GOOD-BYE, Mother," shouted Rita and Ricardo from the stairs. "Good-bye, children. Take care of yourselves."

The children ran down the stairs merrily. It was early morning and they were going to school. Rita put the piece of bread that Mother gave her in her basket. Ricardo put his in his pocket. Many other boys and girls were walking in the street. They were also going to school.

Two blocks away near the corner of the street, they saw many people standing. They pushed against each other trying to look into an open door. Several men at the edge of the crowd stood on their toes gazing over the heads of those before them.

"Look!" Ricardo pointed excitedly. "It must be a fight, Rita. Let us go and see."

Rita followed Ricardo's finger with her eyes. Perhaps there was really a fight there. She wanted to do as Ricardo said. Many children had already joined the crowd and several others were going to join. But many more children were already in the school yard. It was about time for the bell to ring.

"Come, Rita, hurry up," urged Ricardo. "We shall be late, if we go," said Rita.

"It is about time now, Ricardo. The bell is going to ring."

"Oh, just a while. Let us see only what they are looking at," insisted Ricardo.

Rita shook her head.

"We shall be late, Ricardo. Let us go to school now."

"Well, you can go alone."

Ricardo was angry with Rita. Without saying another word and without looking to the right and to the left, he started to run across the street. He did not know that an automobile was coming toward him. Rita screamed aloud to warn Ricardo, but it was too late. With a loud squeak of brakes the driver turned the wheel violently to avoid hitting Ricardo. The automobile turned sharply to the right hitting a garbage can. The front wheels of the automobile fell into the shallow canal nearby. Some persons who saw what happened rushed toward Ricardo, but finding that he was not hurt they let him go.

When Rita and Ricardo returned home from school, Mother asked, "Did you take care of yourselves, children?"

Ricardo hang his head in shame.

"I forgot something, Mother, when I was crossing the street this morning," confessed Ricardo.

"And what was it that you forgot?"

"I forgot to look to the right and to the left before crossing the street."

"Well, are you going to forget it again?" Mother wanted to know.

— Ricardo could only shake his head.

"He will not forget it again, Mother," put in Rita.

"Why, Rita?"

"Because he was almost run over by an automobile."